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New and Noteworthy Herpetozoa from Southern Mexico

By HOBART M. SMITH*, JOHN D. LYNCH* AND RONALD ALTIGt

Among the 187 specimens of herpetozoa secured in Mexico during the summer of 1964 by the junior author are a number that are of significant novelty either in extension of known geographic or morphological ranges, or in representation of hitherto unknown taxa. The noteworthy material is reported in the following account. All specimens are in the University of Illinois Museum of Natural History.

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Pseudoeurycea belli (Gray) .

A single juvenile (No. 57165) was taken June 29, 1964, 3.5 miles south of Putla, Oaxaca, where it was microallopatric with *Bolitoglossa riletti,* although it cannot now be stated whether the species are microparapatric or microdichopatric. They are certainly macrosympatric. The *P. belli* was taken on the ground under debris from banana plants, whereas *B. riletti* was collected near a stream in the axils of elephant ear plants.

The species has previously been recorded from Putla, first by Boulenger (1882: 69) , but no record exists in the literature of the appearance of specimens specifically from this area. Our example, 30 mm. snout-vent, is almost uniform black above and only slightly lighter below ; very faintly, under fluid, vestiges of the typical dorsolateral row of light spots can be discerned, but the parietal spots are not at all in evidence. This is in sharp contrast with specimens from the highlands of central Oaxaca, where the parietal spots are exceptionally large. A juvenile (No. 30892) from Cerro San Felipe (22 mm. snout-vent) has large, conjoined parietal spots and very large spots in the dorsolateral rows.

So far as we are aware, the pattern of the Putla specimen is unique, and if shared with others of its population it is conclusively indicative of a distinctive subspecific status. We likewise regard the central Oaxaca plateau population as subspecifically distinct from the nominate race of

*Department of Zoology and Museum of Natural History, University of Illinois, Urbana. Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

the main Mexican plateau. Dunn's (1926: 360) record of indistinctly spotted specimens of *belli* pertains to *P. gadovii* (Dunn, 1926: 437-9) .

Hyla ebraccata Cope.

This species has long been expected in Chiapas, since it was first indicated as a member of the Mexican fauna by discovery on the Guatemala side of the Mexico-Guatemala boundary, the Rio Usumacinta, at Piedras Negras. Conversely, several reports have appeared for Veracruz and Oaxaca, but none for either Chiapas or Tabasco. Accordingly the four specimens (Nos. 57027-30) secured 11 miles south of Teapa, Tabasco, in Chiapas, provide the basis for our report of the species in the latter state. The four are typical adult males, with the distinctive chocolate brown markings of the species.

Hyla loquax Gaige and Stuart.

Six specimens (57021-6) , from 10 miles south of Teapa, Tabasco, in Chiapas, are the second collection of the species in the latter state. Shreve (1957: 248) has recorded the species from the eastern end of the state, at Laguna Ocotal. The specimens are typical adult males. The species is now known in Mexico from the states of Veracruz, Oaxaca and Chiapas, at localities restricted to the Atlantic slopes.

Hyla picta (Gunther) .

A single specimen (No. 57031) , from 11 miles south of Teapa, Tabasco, in the state of Chiapas, is of special interest as the only example Known of the species from that state. It has been reported only from one locality (16 mi. N. of Teapa) in Tabasco (Smith, 1960: 223) . The locality is within the expected range of the species, situated on the Atlantic lowlands. The specimen is a typical adult male with a lavender dorsum, a dorsolateral light stripe on each side with a dark lateral border, and vomerine teeth scarcely evident.

Phrynohyas modesta (Taylor and Smith) .

A single adult female (No. 57032) from 11 miles south of Teapa, Tabasco, in the state of Chiapas, is of interest in confirming the presence of this species north of the central plateau as well as in the southeastern corner of the state south of the plateau, whence all other records from Chiapas now in the literature have come.

Geophis laticollaris sp. nov.

Holotype.—Univ. Illinois Mus. Nat. Hist. 57170, an adult female taken 3 miles south of Putla, Oaxaca, Mexico, June 29, 1964, by Ronald Altig. No other specimens known.

Definition and Diagnosis. No anterior temporal ; scales in 15 rows, weakly keeled posteriorly ; internasals present ; ventrals 132, caudals 30 ; black above, white below, except for a broad white collar on neck and rear of head. Most similar to ***G. sallaei,*** but different in having a nuchal collar and a smaller eye.

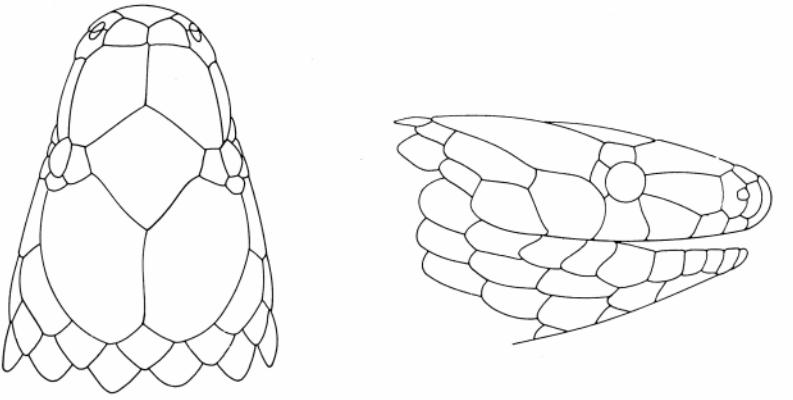
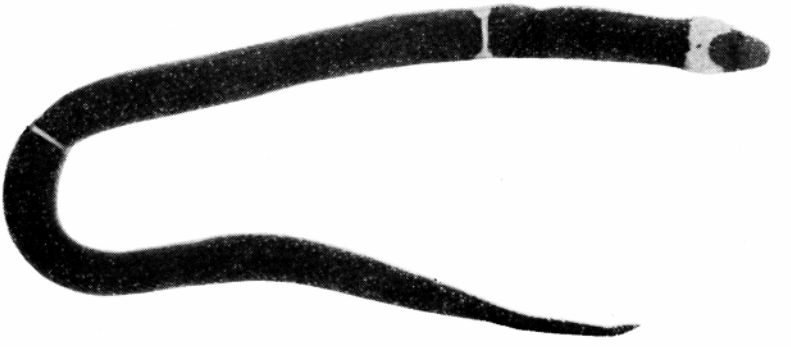


FIG. 1. Dorsal and lateral head scales of the holotype of *Geophis laticollaris*.

Description of *holotype*. *Dorsal* and lateral head scales as illustrated ; infralabials 7-8, the first in contact with its mate, 3 (4) contacting anterior chinshields, 2 contacting posterior chinshields. Dorsal scales in 15 rows, extreme anterior scales on. body and extreme posterior scales on tail smooth, others weakly keeled ; ventrals 132 ; anal entire ; caudals 30.

Total length 139 mm.; tail 19 mm.

Dorsal surface dark, nearly black medially, browner on sides, pigment extending on to ends of ventrals ; scales in first row with light, unpigmented areas only on neck, to a distance no more than 20 mm. posterior to head ; top and sides of head uniformly dark, to lip ; lower labials, mental and anterior chinshields with irregularly distributed pigmented areas ; venter white, unpigmented ; subcaudal surface extensively



PL. 1. Dorsal view of the holotype of *Geophis laticollaris*.

pigmented, uniformly dark on posterior fourth ; an unpigmented area on posterior central edge of each divided subcaudal, large on anterior scales, disappearing on posterior scales.

Remarks. G. laticollaris closely resembles *G. sallaei,* and differs only, so far as we are aware, in having a larger eye and a nuchal collar. *G. sallaci* is uniform dark above, in the seven recorded specimens (Boulenger, 1894: 318, pl. 16, fig. 1; Smith, 1942: 259) . The collar that occurs in our present specimen might well be interpreted as a color variation of the single species *sallaci,* except for the fact that the eye of our specimen is exactly equal to its distance from the labial border, whereas in specimens previously reported the eye diameter is only / to $3/_4$ that distance. Size of eye seems to be relatively species-constant in this genus. It is likewise of some significance that there is a marked faunistic distinction of the Pluma Hidalgo and Putla areas, as revealed by the collections secured for the University of Illinois Museum of Natural History by W. Leslie Burger, Ronald Altig and Alan Holman.

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